GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4521
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
CHECK ON ENCROACHMENT OF FOREST LAND
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total notified forest area in various States along with their percent of geographical area, State-wise during 2010-11;

(b) the total forest area which has vanished in various States due to cultivation, encroachments, illegal felling of trees and smuggling during 2011-2012, State-wise;and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to prevent such encroachments in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) State/UT-wise details of forest cover in the country and forest cover as percent of geographical area as per the India State of Forest Report 2011 (ISFR 2011) are given in Annexure I.

(b) As per India State of Forest Report 2011, 14 States / UTs have shown a decrease in forest cover to the extent of 867 square kilometers. The details of States/UTs showing decline in forest cover along with the reasons for decline are given in Annexure II.

(c) The protection and management of forest is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/ Union Territory Governments. The action to retrieve the encroached forest land is taken by the State/UTs Government as per the law. This Ministry provides financial assistance to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including scheme on 'Intensification of Forest Management'. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to strengthen forest protection machinery by way of infrastructure development, use of modern technology, improved mobility by way of deployment of new field vehicles, improved communication and providing arms and ammunition to the front-line forestry force.